

CHURCHNEWS

Issue 7 - April 2009

Cregagh Presbyterian Church Magazine



**CREGAGH
PRESBYTERIAN**
Love God and Love Your Neighbour

We would welcome your comments, photographs and stories for future editions.

Information for the next issue should be sent to any member of the Communications Group or by e-mail to churchnews@cregaghpresbyterian.org.

This edition has been compiled and edited by the Communications Group – Stephen Michael, Derrick Cartlidge, Leslie Ferguson, Sandra McCormick, Robert McNair, Dennison Mahood and David Gillespie.

Welcome



Dear Friends,

Everywhere you look at the minute, creation is bursting into new life. Even the plants you thought mightn't make it through the long, cold days are pushing their way through the soil, buds are appearing on the branches and the birds are celebrating the end of those dark, dreary days and nights of winter. Spring has sprung!

Spring reminds us again of God's provision in the seasons and his promise that spring will always follow winter. Easter also has its message of new life, not just the new life in the bulbs and plants, but the new life that comes from the resurrection of Jesus. If ever hope emerged from darkness, it was the risen Jesus emerging from the tomb on Easter morning after the darkness of Good Friday and the

depression of the Saturday. And that hope is still alive!

We need to be reminded of this hope in our tough economic times – things will improve, and in the meantime we must have compassion and active concern for all who suffer as a result of unemployment, loss of home and loss of hope.

We need to be reminded of the hope of Christ in our political situation too – the world was changed in the days and weeks and years after the resurrection; often it was just a little step at a time. The last few weeks have illustrated how fragile our 'peace' in Northern Ireland really is. Let us continue to be Easter people even when so many still live depending on the fear and the power and the suspicion and the violence that so characterised the events leading up to the first Good Friday.

We hope you will join us to celebrate the hope of Easter and to meditate on what it cost Jesus to offer us such wonderful hope.

Your minister and friend,

Hastings McIntyre

CHURCHNEWS - Your Comments

A big 'thank you' to all of you who responded to the questionnaire on **CHURCHNEWS** which was placed in the December 2008 issue of the magazine.

Your replies were overwhelmingly positive to the content and balance of the magazine, and Congregational Committee unanimously agreed to continue production in its present form.

A number of suggestions for articles were included in your responses. These will be considered for future editions.

Open Church

Be still, and know that I am God...

Be still before the Lord and wait...

He leads me beside quiet waters...

In quietness and trust is your salvation...

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing...

May my meditation be pleasing to him...

How lovely is thy dwelling place...

The church is open each Friday from 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. for anyone from our church and community who may wish to call in for a short time of quiet reflection. All are welcome to come and go as they please.

In the pews there are Welcome Cards which include a tear-off section for anyone who wishes to be remembered by 'Prayer Link' which meets each Wednesday at 7.10 p.m. in the Session Room.



BELFAST ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

CREGAGH FAMILY DAY

- When is it?** Sat 18th April 11.30am
- Where is it?** Belfast Zoo.
- Who can go?** You and your family
Mums, Dads, Kids of all ages, Grannies,
Grandas, Aunts, Uncles.
- How much is it?** £6 adults, £3 children (under 4s free)
(this is with a reduction and may be subject to change)
- What do I do now?** Either speak to Louise Michael or sign the
sheet in the vestibule or pinned to the notice
board in the main corridor.

And the fun doesn't end there.
On Sunday 19th, there will be a
special 'animal' family service at
Church which you won't want to miss!!



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GARDEN FÊTE
Saturday 30th May 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Plans are well advanced for this year's Garden Fête to be held in the Church Halls and Grounds.

Let's hope and pray that the weather is kind to us this year and make it the Fun Family Day Out it has always been. For this to happen, we need your support.

As well as shoes, there will be the usual stalls - that's where you come in - providing items for and staffing the stalls.

Do a spring clean and anything saleable you come across, whether in the garage, attic or cupboard, can be brought along or even collected.

As well as bric-a-brac, we need cakes, groceries, eggs, books, old records, toys (old and new), etc. - no clothes or electrical goods please.

If you would like items collected, please contact
Peter Davey on 9077 5595 or Bobby Irvine on 9070 1037.

The Alan Memorial Hall will be open to receive items for the Fête on
Thursday 28th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 26th May from 7.00am - 9.00am.



21 Children aged 3-12 are invited to our
KidZone Praise Party
on Saturday 20th June 2009
with the fun starting at 3.00pm

Not only will there be plenty of high energy singing and dancing, a puppet show and some fun and games, but you also get to stay for lots of goodies to eat and drink.

More details will be available nearer the time but put this date in your diary now if you have

Cregagh Presbyterian... a Congregation for the Future!

Planning permission sought. . .

Our architects, R Robinson and Sons, submitted plans to DRD Planning Service in mid-February. The planning approval process normally takes six to nine months and we plan to ask Robinsons to prepare tenders once approval has been received – a process that will take a further two to three months. However, the situation with the Presbyterian Mutual Society has cast a shadow over our proposals and we may have to reconsider the timing of the building work. In the meantime, fundraising continues to gather momentum and, with thanks to you for all your efforts, our “Totaliser” now reads **£147,000** (from 1 January 2008 - 28 February 2009).

Meetings continue with church organisations to discuss and finalise the internal layout for the church, based on our initial specification. As before, there is still time to let us know your views – speak to any member of Kirk Session or Congregational Committee.

Watch out for updates on progress through the weekly news-sheet and in the church vestibule.

David Gillespie
Congregational Secretary

Fancy a ‘cuppa’ and a chat?

It is always nice to meet each other informally for a chat and catch up with each other’s news.

Sometimes, we come to and leave a church service without speaking to anyone, and while we may recognise faces in the pews we never really get to know their names.

We all have the opportunity to get to know our fellow church members by coming to the Coffee Bar after some Morning Services during the year.

The ‘First Sunday Coffee Bar’ is open in the Allen Memorial Hall after Morning Service on the first Sunday of each month (September - May); and the ‘Summer Coffee Bar’ is open every Sunday after Morning Service in June, July and August.

Why not stay behind for a short while on these occasions? You will be very welcome.

Update on Youth and Family Work 2009

Louise Michael gives us an update on her work with the young people and families in the Congregation.

Under 5s

At Mothers and Toddlers on a Thursday morning I have been helping Josephine and Wilma out by doing a few songs and nursery rhymes with the kids which seems to be going down well. They have done such a great job getting so many toddlers involved and now we need to see what way can the Church connect with them and their families.

Primary School Kids

I really ought to say a big thank you to Karen McCurry because she has been helping me out more so than the other way round. We hope to plan a praise party and BBQ for the end of the school year with the kids, so watch this space.

Tweenagers (those in P7 and Year 8)

We went out bowling and to McDonalds in January which everyone seemed to enjoy.

Secondary School Kids

Of course we have the Youth Fellowship as usual, with Junior YF (Year 8-13) on a Sunday evening and Senior YF (Year 14+) every other Monday evening. We also had a slightly amended event on 14th March where we all enjoyed food and a movie in the Church Halls.

18-30's

We all enjoyed a night out to the Wellington Park for Christmas Dinner and hope to have another trip out in the spring/summer.

Families

We are having a family day out to the Zoo on the 18th April which everyone is welcome to come along to, young, old and in-between.

The other important part of my new role has been visiting people and organisations. I haven't got to see nearly as many of you as I had planned but, hopefully, in the coming months I will be getting out to see lots more to chat with you and see what Cregagh can do for you. If you have any questions, suggestions, or you need anything with regards to youth and family work, I would be more than happy to meet with or speak to you.

Louise

Health and Safety - watch this space!

The Presbyterian Church encourages congregations to improve their health and safety practices.

A Committee of the Board of Finance and Personnel in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland set the ball rolling in October 2008 to encourage congregations to continue to improve their health and safety practices.

As a first step, congregations have been asked to set up Health and Safety Sub-Committees. We have done this, and the members of the Cregagh Presbyterian Health and Safety Sub-Committee are Jim McCurry, Nigel Platt, Ruth Hill and David Gillespie.

The role of this Sub-Committee is to:

- provide advice to organisations and others;
- arrange training if required;
- encourage organisations and others to complete risk assessments;
- make sure that any health and safety problems are resolved.

We will be following the advice and guidance laid down by Peninsula Business Services by:

- preparing a list of our employees;
- writing a health and safety policy statement;
- asking all organisations to complete risk assessments for their activities; and
- writing a risk assessment for our buildings.

It will take us a bit of time to get all this done but we hope to have all these items in place within six to nine months.

So, don't be surprised if you hear more about health and safety in and around the church and its organisations. Your health and safety are our concern.

Mash Up at Moyallen!

Lauren Gillespie represented our congregation at the SPUD 'Mash Up' weekend at the end of February. Here's an account of her experiences...



I was asked, along with Lynsey Watson, to attend a SPUD (Speaking, Participating, Understanding, Discussing) convention in Antrim at the end of January. Both of us wondered what on earth we had got ourselves into. After a long day of discussions, we left feeling that we had done our part and that there wasn't much more to it.

A few weeks later, I received a letter asking me to attend the 'Mash up' weekend to further discuss the issues for young people in the Presbyterian Church. So, on the 27th of February, I travelled to the Moyallen centre in Portadown...well it was more like the middle of nowhere!

The Friday night was 'get to know each other' time. As I didn't know anybody, I did my best to make some new friends, and it worked! We played some extremely silly games and then we were briefed on what would be involved in the discussions and the overall weekend.

Feature

The Saturday was packed with discussion and we had a very early start to ensure we got everything done. We were split back into the streams that we were in at the Antrim convention - I was in stream B. Each focus session lasted 2 hours and 45 minutes with half an hour silence in the middle. The silence was a new proposal by the SPUD working group; they said that there is so much noise in the world, how are we meant to hear God? So, for half an hour we all took ourselves off, outside, inside, or even to bed, just to think about what had already been discussed, think of our opinions and, most importantly, listen to what God has to say about it. I found this unbelievably helpful; it cleared my head and I never noticed how nice it is just to sit in silence and listen for God.

Stream A discussed the Board of Mission in Ireland, the Youth and Children's Board, and Peace making. In my stream, we discussed the Board of Mission Overseas. We basically thought about how we could be more involved and how we, as congregations, can find out more about the people who are out there. We then discussed the Board of Social Witness, talking about the statement, 'Living more simply so that others may simply live'. The last session was on the topic of Bridging the Gap, between the Church and the community and between generations. We came up with ideas to try and bring the community and the congregation together.

The rest of the weekend was filled with fun, games and the best food ever! I managed to make over 30 new friends and have very in-depth discussions with them all. We also had a lesson on how the Presbyterian Church works. This was so helpful and I now roughly know what is going on. I feel the weekend taught me a lot of things about our Church and how I, as a young person, can be a big part of it. One thing I did learn was that everything we discussed came back to relationships - everything we do is based on making solid relationships.

The proposals that we came up with on the weekend will be presented to the General Assembly in June and hopefully be passed. If they are passed, young people will be more actively included in decisions and general work in the Church.

Prayer Link

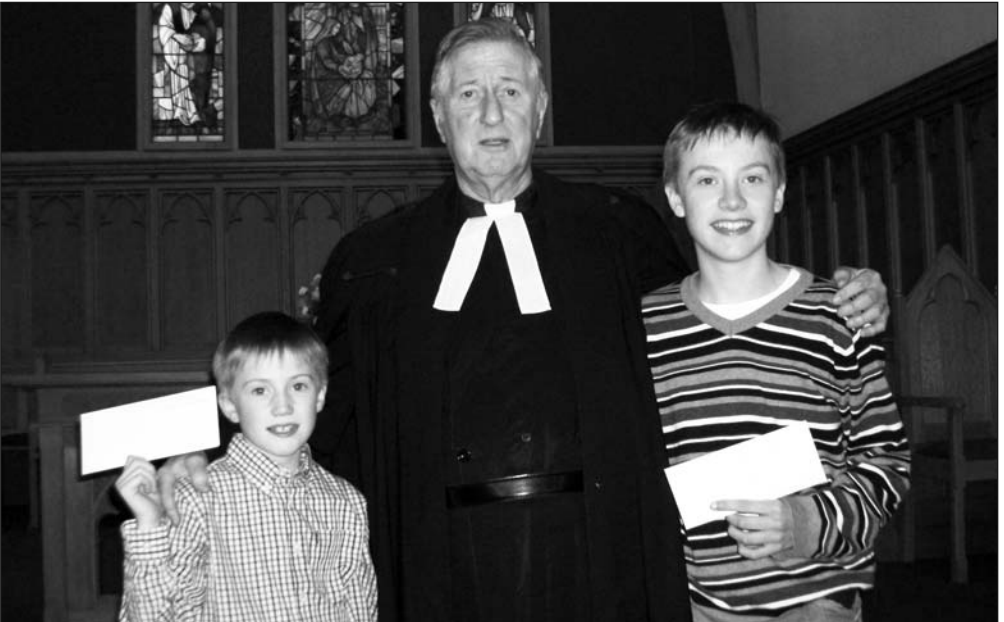
A small group of Cregagh members meets every Wednesday evening at the church to pray for those who may request it for whatever reason - it may be to give thanks to God for something, or to seek help or comfort for any worrying or anxious situations.

Prayers are offered for anyone, members of the church, their family or friends or folk from the community.

Anyone is welcome to come and join in with the prayer group, usually from 7.10 - 7.30 p.m., but all are invited to submit prayer requests to the group as and when they feel the need to do so.

To request prayer, simply fill in one of the pew prayer cards in church, or telephone 9045 5416 or 9079 9307.

'Take it to the Lord in prayer'.



Connor and Christopher Simpson recently received prizes for, respectively, 9 years and 5 years continuous attendance at KidZone. They are pictured with Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Albert Sleith, who presented the prizes.

Test your knowledge

How much do you know about Freewill Offering?

A recent report on 'congregational giving' from Presbytery has made some of us speculate on just how much we, as members, know about our financial situation. So I thought the best way to aid our understanding was in the form of a 'fun' quiz.

In order to help our 'thinking', I can give you the following information: Each year our Church incurs expenses in the following three areas: (i) Salaries & expenses, (ii) Church House & Presbytery assessments, and (iii) Essential upkeep & running costs. All three of these are paid by our contributions to Freewill Offering (FWO).

Answers to the quiz questions are multiple choice and the correct answers will be given later in the magazine. So, here goes!!! (All questions are based on 2007/2008 financial figures for Cregagh.)

Q1 There are 321 families, representing around 500 contributors to WFO in Cregagh. What was the average giving per family last year?

- (a) £137 (b) £739 (c) £366

Q2 There are 24 congregations in the East Belfast Presbytery, all giving different amounts per family to their respective WFO schemes. What was the highest figure contributed by a congregation?

- (a) £334 (b) £629 (c) £782

Q3 On a league table basis, in terms of 'giving per family', out of the 24 congregations where was Cregagh's league position?

- (a) 1st (b) 9th (c) 17th

Q4 Based on last year's essential expenditure, how much would each of the 321 Cregagh families need to contribute to WFO in order that we would break even?

- (a) £341 (b) 419 (c) £217

Q5 *Of the approximate 500 members of congregation holding WFO envelopes, what percentage failed to make any contribution to funds during the year?*

- (a) 1% (b) 6% (c) 10%

Q6 *Of the 321 WFO contributing families, what percentage of them did not reach a 'break-even' figure for essential running costs referred to in Q4 above?*

- (a) 35% (b) 15% (c) 20%

Q7 *Based on the figure of 500 people holding WFO envelopes, how much did we have to pay, per person, to Church House last year for essential costs? (per contributor if we divide the total amount equally)*

- (a) £162 (b) Nothing (c) 10% of their individual giving

Q8 *Based on last year's figures of 500 contributors, how much per week would each have to give to cover Cregagh's essential running costs assuming an equal division among the 500?*

- (a) £12.30 (b) £4.20 (c) £14.10

Q9 *How much did it cost for each of the 500 sets of envelopes to be printed?*

- (a) £1.50 (b) 50p (c) 75p

Q10 *With reference to our average giving per family, over the last three years has it*

- (a) Risen? (b) Stayed the same? (c) Fallen?

Christmas Dinner at the Wellington Park Hotel



Last December, around thirty 18 – 30 year olds from Cregagh attended the Wellington Park Hotel for a Christmas Dinner. This was a chance for everyone to get dressed up and meet together in a social environment. The group was made up of the members of the Senior Youth Fellowship as well as other people from the congregation who fitted into this age group.

The night started when we all met in the downstairs lounge bar, and we were then taken to a private function room where we all took our seats at the table. A traditional Christmas Dinner was served and was enjoyed by all, especially Matthew, who took a particular liking to the roast potatoes! The night then continued in another function room, with a DJ playing the old Christmas party classics such as 'Wizard' and 'Wham!', while we all danced along enthusiastically. As the night drew to a close most of the girls were left with sore feet and everyone headed home to get some well needed sleep!

Other plans for the 18 – 30's group this year is to go 'Skirmishing', which is said to be a mix between paint balling and laser quest. This will take place in the next few months.

Kirsty Pollock

CREGAGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GARDEN FÊTE

Saturday 30th May 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Plans are well advanced for this year's Garden Fête to be held in the Church Halls and Grounds.

Let's hope and pray that the weather is kind to us this year and make it the Fun Family Day Out it has always been. For this to happen, we need your support.

As well as sideshows, there will be the usual stalls - that's where you come in – providing items for and staffing the stalls.

Do a spring clean and anything saleable you come across, whether in the garage, attic or cupboard, can be brought along or even collected.

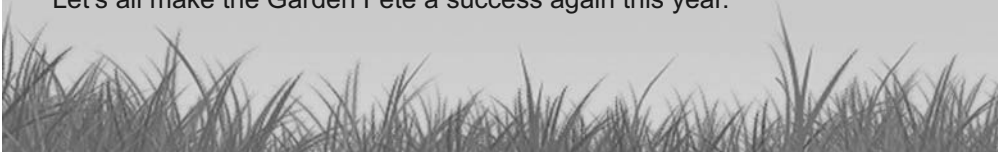
As well as bric-a-brac, we need cakes, groceries, eggs, books, old records, toys (old and new), etc. – no clothes or electrical goods please.

If you would like items collected, please contact
Peter Davey on 9079 5595 or Bobby Irvine on 9070 1037.

The Allen Memorial Hall will be open to receive items for the Fête on Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th May from 7.00pm – 9.00pm

If you could give a couple of hours on the day to 'man' the stalls, we would love to hear from you – speak to John Millen or Peter Davey. Your help will make a difference.

Let's all make the Garden Fête a success again this year.



This is my Life!

This is the third in a new feature in 'CHURCHNEWS' when we get to know some of our church members a little bit more!



In this issue, our 'celebrity' is the Clerk of Kirk Session, Mr. Dennison Mahood

Dennison, where were you born and brought up?

I was born in Portavogie, Co. Down on Friday 13th February 1942. Being wartime, my mother was evacuated from Belfast to the Lower Ards where she met my father who was a fisherman in Portavogie.

I was baptised by the Rev. Donaghy at home (I still have the salad bowl used for the water!).

We moved to Belfast when I was two years old where my mother and her sister had a Ladies' Millinery Shop on the Woodstock Road. Living 'over the shop' for a while, we then moved to Mount Merrion Gardens before moving to the Cregagh Road when my sister was born in 1950. I have now lived in the same house for 59 years.

Where were you educated?

My primary school was Mountpottinger Public Elementary School (sadly now gone) and then Ashfield Boys' Secondary School where I remained until passing my 'Junior Certificate'.

When did you become a member of Cregagh Presbyterian Church?

Following my early years in Belfast when we were members of Westbourne and St.Andrew's Congregations and attending Cregagh Street Gospel Hall Sunday School, we joined Cregagh in 1950.

You are fairly heavily involved in the work of Cregagh - has this always been the case?

Yes, except for a period of time in the early eighties. My first real involvement came in 1951 when I joined the Life Boys on the invitation of the then Assistant Minister, the Rev.Eric Gardner (who later became a Moderator of PCI). Then followed membership of the Boys' Brigade, Bible Class, Youth Club, etc.

I became a communicant in 1957 and ordained an elder in 1970. I was the youngest ever, in Cregagh, to be appointed to the Congregational Committee and elected as an Elder - pity I am at the other end of the scale now joining the ranks of the oldest!!

Was a Sunday School teacher from 1960 - 1972, Congregational Secretary from 1975 - 1978 and Session Clerk since 1995.

I currently produce the Weekly News-Sheet which I have done for over 20 years.

What is your employment history?

On leaving school, I 'served my time' as salesman for Lindsay Bros. Ltd. Belfast (Wholesale Drapers).

In 1966, I became Agent for Ireland and Scotland for J.Collett Ltd. London (Millinery Manufacturers).

Unfortunately, ladies stopped wearing hats in church and weddings and the company closed - I then rejoined Lindsay Bros. for a brief spell as Special Range Representative before joining Anderson & McAuleys of Belfast in 1974 as Buyer of Linens/Household Dept. I eventually became buyer of Carpets and then Perfumery/Beauty Department for the four years prior to the store's closure.

Following my redundancy in 1993 and a year in Frances Curley's Shop in Belfast, I was appointed buyer/manager of Gifts and China Dept. and Bedlinen Dept. and Display Manager in Smyth Pattersons of Lisburn.

After fourteen very happy years in Smyth Pattersons, I retired in February 2008.

What are your main interests?

I have several interests, but the main ones would have to be my family, my church, the theatre and travel.

We have heard a little about your home life and your church work, what about your love of theatre and travel?

Well, I have always had a great passion for the theatre and attend as many performances as I can with my tastes ranging from musicals to serious drama (not too keen on ballet or Shakespeare). There is rarely a week passes that I don't attend some play or performance and I have enjoyed shows in many theatres in Ireland, UK and USA.

In fact, my interest in theatre also meant that I was employed, in addition to my day job, as Front of House Manager in the Belfast Civic Arts Theatre from 1979 - 1991. These were happy years when I got to know many actors and entertainers from stage and screen - I'll not bore you by name dropping!

And, travel - where is the most favourite place you have visited?

Only one? Can I have three? There are just so many lovely places I've been that hold special memories. If I could afford to buy three holiday homes, they would be a house in Florida for the sunshine, fun and breakfasts, a villa on the banks of Lake Garda for the peace, beauty and ice-cream, and an apartment on Blackpool's North Promenade for the bracing air, sea view and fish 'n' chips!

What is your favourite piece of music?

Again, I have many depending on my mood - but anytime I hear Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana - Intermezzo or Massenet's Thais-Meditation I just have to stop and listen - just so moving and beautiful.

Gloria Gaynor's "I will Survive" or "The Birdy Song" aren't bad either!! - only joking!!

What is your favourite book?

I'm not really a reader and have no favourites, but if I had to chose something it would be an autobiography - maybe that's a nosej streak coming out in me!

What is your favourite film?

Again, not a great film goer but I enjoyed 'The Quiet Man', 'Titanic' and 'Sound of Music' - am I sad, or what?

What are your favourite TV programmes?

Easy, 'Coronation Street', 'Eastenders', 'Dancing on Ice' and 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Also, good period dramas by the BBC - they do them so well.

What is your favourite indulgence?

Apart from theatre-going and food, buying clothes. I am an addict and feel so guilty at the amount of money I spend on clothes that I don't need. Some day I'll be like Elton John and sell my clothes (in lieu of the Building Fund, of course!) I must have more shirts, ties, shoes, suits, sweaters etc. than Next or River Island have in their warehouses - it's sinful – sorry!

Have you any phobias?

Apart from heights, spiders and semolina - the fear of not being able to buy clothes!

When was the last time you cried and why?

Probably today - it's strange but I get very emotional over the least wee thing. If I see someone on TV winning or even being rejected on a game show or something like the X Factor I'm off, the tissues have to come out. Same when watching a play or hearing about some tragic situation. It seems to have got worse since my parents died nine years ago within three months of each other when I did cry a lot.

However, it is said to be better to let it out than hold it in - so I'll still keep the tissues handy.

What's the best piece of advice you have ever been given?

My maternal grandmother's words to me: "Whoever you are, be noble; whatever you do, do well; whenever you speak, speak kindly; give joy wherever you dwell".

How environmentally friendly are you?

I try to do my best - use the appropriate rubbish bins, don't smoke, walk instead of driving when possible etc. - I'm sure I could do better.

What item could you not live without?

My diary to let me know where I should be on a particular day; and Dorothy Platt when I am playing the dame in pantomime!

What are you most proud of?

The way my personal life and service to the church has turned out. I was a particularly shy young boy, lacking in any confidence; and anything I can do now is down to the example of five people - my parents, my maternal grandmother, my paternal grandfather, and my former minister, the Rev. Arthur Barbour, all of whom placed their trust in me and guided me - I owe them so much.

Have you any regrets?

Although I enjoy the single bachelor life I regret the privilege of not having children which means the end of my branch of the Mahood dynasty! However, I console myself by having two wonderful nieces and now just in March becoming the great-uncle of baby Emma Suzanne.

I could have been married to a certain Cregagh girl of former years had her mother not served me with beetroot sandwiches (yuk) at supper in her front room one Sunday evening after church - only a few Cregagh members know who it was!

Quick death or time to prepare?

As I am prepared to die, both spiritually and practically - I have my funeral service sorted (just haven't got the date for the Order of Service!) - I would prefer a quick death. This, maybe selfishly for me, so that I don't suffer long, but definitely because of not wanting my family to have any lengthy period of unpleasant or difficult attention to my needs. Anyway, it's all in God's hands and He will put things in order.

Feature

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Physically - to remove my jowl (a family hereditary facial feature) and have fuller eyebrows and lashes (I cut them off when I was eight and they never grew again!).

Mentally - to accept change in the church and society more easily - I have great difficulty in doing so.

As a Christian, do you feel that the Church at large is advancing or retreating in the world today?

O dear, that's a hard one - yes, it does seem that secularism is growing at an alarming rate and I, like many, despair at times at the seemingly lack of interest in God and His Church by some sections of the world's community, young and old alike. But, then, those of us who call ourselves Christian must, and have the duty to, reverse any un-Christian trends - not an easy job, but one that has to be done.

We can only do it through a committed sense of love and example, not only to our own family, friends and church members but to those we may not like, those who do not have our interests or aims.

Sometimes, I think, too, that we as members of the Church can even aid the decrease in people's attitude to God and His Church by trying to popularise everything which can lead to standards, manners, dignity, commitment, decency etc. being lowered - but then, what do I know? I'm old-fashioned!

Thank you, Dennison, for answering our questions and we wish you well in all that you seek to do in Cregagh and in your private life.

All children aged 3-12 are invited to our

KidZone Praise Party

on Saturday 20th June 2009

with the fun starting at 3.00pm

Not only will there be plenty of high energy singing and dancing, a puppet show and some fun and games, but you also get to stay for lots of goodies to eat and drink.

More details will be available nearer the time, but put this date in your diary now if you have children who would like to come along.

Contact: Karen McCurry (9070 5644)
or Louise Michael (9752 1525)

Test your knowledge

Answers to the Finance Quiz.

Q1 (c)

Q2 (c)

Q3 (c)

Q4 (a)

Q5 (c)

Q6 (a)

Q7 (a)

Q8 (b)

Q9 (a)

Q10 (b)

If you scored 7 - 10 We need you on the Finance committee.
 4 - 7 A pretty good score, well done!
 2 - 4 You must be as surprised as we were when we analysed the figures.
 0 - 2 Obviously paying bills is not your scene!!!

Hope you enjoyed it, and it certainly gives food for thought.

We thought it would be a good idea to use this method of informing those who were not aware that WFO contributions are directly related to the continued existence of our Church here in Cregagh, and also to thank and encourage those who continue to support our work to the limit of their financial ability.

Alan Spence
Hon. Treasurer

Perhaps some don't realise that the level of WFO contributions is so vital to the continued existence of the Church here in Cregagh. We want to encourage every member to play his or her part and to thank all those who give so generously.

What's the BUZZ?

The church halls are buzzing with activity. Here's some information on when our organisations will be meeting over the next few months.

60 Plus Exercise Class – meets on Thursday mornings in the Barbour Hall until 2nd April from 10.15am to 11am. Contact Lena McConnell on 9079 3054.

Evergreens - meet in the Barbour Hall on Wednesday 1st April and 6th May at 2.30pm. Our outing is on 20th May (we will not be in the church that day). Contact Barbara Dunlop on 9045 3829.

PWG – meets in the Barbour Hall at 7.30pm on the first and third Monday of January, February and March, finishing on the third Monday of March, reconvening on the first Monday in September. Contact Margaret Elliott on 9045 1420.

Church Choir – meets on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm to the end of May in the Barbour Hall. Choir will reconvene again in September. Contact Bobby McKeown on 9079 3109.

Junior Choir – meets on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm in the Barbour Hall. Finishes for Easter on 31st March and resumes on 21st April. The Junior Choir Concert is on 26th May with the choir finishing for summer on 2nd June.

Praise Group – meets on Thursday evenings at 6.45pm until the end of May in the Sleith Youth Centre. Praise Group will reconvene again in September. Contact Kathryn Glover on 07810 276546.

Youth Fellowship – Senior and Junior Youth Fellowship will run until 5th April (no half term break). Then from 26th April until at least 14th June (to be confirmed), meeting at 8.00pm in the Sleith Youth Centre (Junior YF) and 30 Church Hill Park, Ballygowan (Senior YF). Contact Louise Michael on 9752 1525.

Ladies' Bowls – meets in the Stewart Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesdays and finishes activities on Tuesday 31st March. There is no indoor bowling in spring and summer, but Ladies' Bowls will recommence in September. Contact Dorothy Watton on 9079 7754.

Men's Circle Bowls – finishes activities on Friday 27th March at 7.00pm in the Stewart Hall. There is no indoor bowling in spring and summer but the Men's Circle Bowls recommences in October. Contact Bobby McKeown on 9079 3109.

Mixed Bowls – meets in the Stewart Hall at 7.00pm on Saturdays and finishes activities on Saturday 28th March. There is no indoor bowling in spring and summer but Mixed Bowls will recommence in September. Contact Dorothy Watton on 9079 7754.

Mother and Toddler Group - meets in term time on Thursday mornings from 10am to 12 noon in the Stewart Hall. M&T will not meet on 2nd April during the Easter break and will finish on 11th June for the summer holidays. Contact Josephine Darragh on 9065 4181.

Brownies - meet on Thursday nights in the Stewart Hall from 6.30 to 7.45pm until 11th June (not meeting – 9th /16th April). Contact Vicki Thompson on 9045 8208.

Girl Guides – meet on Thursday evenings at 6.30pm in the Allen Hall. Finish for Easter on 2nd April and then start back on 16th April. Finish for summer holidays on 4th June. Contact Gillian Simons on 9187 4687.

Senior Section Guides – meet on 2nd & 4th Mondays at 6.30pm in the Sleith Youth Centre, finishing on Monday 18th May. Contact Rebecca Day on 07753 590690.

Squirrels - meet on Wednesday nights at 6.30pm in the Stewart Hall until 1st April and then return after Easter on 22nd April. They will finish on the 10th June. Contact Grace Ferguson on 9064 9462.

Beavers - meet on a Wednesday night from 6.30 to 7.45pm in the Allen Hall. Beavers will finish on the 10th June. We will be closed for two Wednesdays over the Easter period. Contact Susan Forsythe on 07821 465365.

Cub Scouts – meet on Monday nights at 6.30pm until 30th March in the Allen Hall and then return after Easter on Monday 20th April. Cub Scouts will finish on 15th or 22nd June for the summer holidays (to be confirmed). Contact Lyn Hayes on 07719 080620.

Scout Troop – meets on Monday nights at 6.30pm until 30th March in the Stewart Hall and then returns after Easter on Monday 20th April. Scouts will finish on 15th or 22nd June for the summer holidays (to be confirmed). Contact Kyle Taylor on 07759 451324.

Copies of our Organisation Reports for 2008 are available from the Congregational Secretary, David Gillespie (9028 5740 or d.gillespie@ntlworld.com).



Above: The Tweenagers enjoyed a game of bowling and to visit to McDonalds on the 17th January. **Below:** Members of the Junior YF enjoying a Movie Night at the Church.



Beetroot and Cheshire Cheese Doorstop

This issue's recipe has been submitted by our Clerk of Session, Dennison Mahood, who is very fond of a beetroot sandwich!

Serves: 2

Preparation Time: 5 mins

Cooking Time: --

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp reduced calorie mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp thick plain yogurt
- 50g/2oz Cheshire cheese
- 1/2 small red onion, very finely chopped
- 1 tsp shredded mint leaves
- 2.5cm/1" piece cucumber, diced
- 2 medium sized beetroots in mild malt vinegar
- 4 thick slices pf granary bread
- Salad leaves
- Butter or spread

Instructions

1. Mix the mayonnaise and yogurt together in a bowl. Crumble in the Cheshire cheese and add the onion, mint and cucumber; fold together.
2. Thinly spread the slices of bread with butter or other spread of choice. Add a layer of salad leaves then arrange the slices of beetroot on top.
3. Divide the cheese mixture between the two sandwiches.
4. Cover with the second slice of bread and serve.

Church Records

Baptisms

Katie May

Infant daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J.A. McCormick, 77 Tildarg Street.

Born: 30th September 2008. Baptised: 14th December 2008.

James Walker

Infant son of Mr. & Mrs. P. Ellis, 10 Lower Braniel Road.

Born: 13th March 2008. Baptised: 21st December 2008.

Marriages

31st January 2009

Alan Martin Kirkwood-Law, 17/6 Spey Terrace, Edinburgh to

Judith Samantha Law, 17/6 Spey Terrace, Edinburgh.

Deaths

17th April 2008

Miss Charlotte Vincent

255 Cregagh Road.

(Notice of Lottie's death should have been included in Issue 5 of Church News.)

27th November 2008

Mrs. Edith Ramsey

76 Merok Crescent.

28th November 2008

Mr. John Morrison

90H Cregagh Road.

9th January 2009

Mr. Robert Armstrong

5 Rocky Road.

10th February 2009

Mrs. Ella Dyatt

Silvergrove, Montgomery Road.

Dates for your Diary

Stainer's 'Crucifixion' by combined Choirs of Cregagh and Malone Presbyterian Churches.

Palm Sunday, 5th April at 11.00 a.m. in the Church.

Palm Sunday Communion

Sunday 5th April at 7.00 p.m.

Music for Holy Week

Wednesday 8th April at 7.30 p.m. in McQuiston Memorial Church.

Maundy Thursday Communion

Thursday 9th April at 7.30 p.m.

Good Friday Meditation

Friday 10th April at 7.30 p.m.

Easter Day Dawn Service

Sunday 12th April at 6.30 a.m. at Henry Jones Playing Fields, Church Road, Castlereagh.

Easter Day Service

Sunday 12th April at 11.00 a.m. (No Evening Service).

Family Day Out

Saturday 18th April from 11.30 a.m. at Belfast Zoo.

Christian Aid Lunch

Sunday 10th May in the Allen Memorial Hall after Morning Service.

Christian Aid Week

Monday 11th - Saturday 16th May.

Junior Choir Concert

Tuesday 26th May at 6.30 p.m. in the Allen Memorial Hall.

Dates for your Diary

Summer Garden Fête

Saturday 30th May from 2.00 p.m. in the Church Grounds and Halls.

Annual Meetings of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Monday 1st - Saturday 6th June in Church House, Fisherwick Place.

Concert by Belfast Operatic Company

Friday 5th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Church.

Children's Day Services

Sunday 7th June at 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Summer Communion

Sunday 28th June at 7.00 p.m.

Joint Summer Evening Services (to be confirmed)

Sundays in July and August at 7.00 p.m.

Summer Holiday Bible Club

Monday 10th - Friday 14th August in Church Halls and Grounds.

Summer Holiday Bible Club Service

Sunday 16th August at 11.00 a.m.

Autumn Communion

Sunday 4th October at 11.00 a.m.

Harvest Thanksgiving and Gift Day Services

Sunday 11th October at 11.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m.

Cradle Roll Service

Sunday 25th October at 11.00 a.m.

'Showstoppers'

Holiday Bible Club

This year the curtain goes up on the
'Showstoppers' Holiday Bible Club on

Monday 10th - Friday 14th August 9.45am - 12.30pm

with a special Family Service and Picnic on
Sunday 16th August at 11.00am.

**Get ready to lift the curtain on a fun-packed week of games,
songs, crafts, drama and lots, lots more - so, why not send
your children along?**

All children aged between **4 and 11 years** will be most welcome,
and forms will be given out in June to our own KidZone as well as
children in Harding Memorial and Lisnasharragh Primary Schools,
but will also be available in the front vestibule of the Church for
anyone else not included in the above.

Enrolment forms for those wishing to attend should be returned
to the Church by the **30th June** if at all possible as places are
limited on a first-come first-served basis.

Should you require any further details in
the meantime, please contact
Karen McCurry (Tel: 90705644)

So, slap on the greasepaint, switch on the lights and bring on the
players as we get ready to stage the *Greatest Show on Earth!*